Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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R 021348Z APR 76 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9466 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 09729

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 3024

- 1. AIR FRANCE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FOR FIRST TWO MONTHS
 OF CONCORDE SCHEDULED SERVICE TO RIO AVERAGE LOAD FACTOR
 HAS BEEN 73.3 PERCENT, MUCH HIGHER THAN CARRIER HAD
 EXPECTED. ON PARIS-RIO LEG LOAD FACTOR HAS BEEN 84
 PERCENT, WHILE ON RIO-PARIS LEG IT HAS BEEN 63.3 PERCENT. AIR FRANCE EXPLAINS THIS IMBALANCE BY FACT
 THAT OPENING OF SERVICE TO RIO COINCIDED WITH CARNIVAL
 SEASON WHICH ATTRACTED EUROPEANS TO RIO,
 WHEREAS RIO-ORIGINATING TRAFFIC IS DOWN BECAUSE OF
 SEASONAL DECLINE IN TRAFFIC DURING ANNUAL VACATION
 PERIOD.
- 2. AIR FRANCE OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT DURING ABOVE PERIOD FIRST CLASS TRAFFIC ON AIR FRANCE'S SUBSONIC SERVICE BETWEEN RIO AND PARIS SHOWED NO DECLINE. AIR FRANCE HAD ENVISAGED ELIMINATING FIRST CLASS ON SUBSONIC FLIGHTS TO RIO IF CONCORDE SERVICE HAD ERODED THIS TRAFFIC AND AIR FRANCE IS OF COURSE UNCLASSIFIED

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PLEASED THAT THIS HAS NOT PROVED NECESSARY.

EXPERIENCE THUS FAR CONTINUES CONFIRM TO AIR FRANCE'S SATISFACTION THAT CONCORDE IS GENERATING NEW TRAFFIC.

3. AS MATTER OF PASSING INTEREST (AND IN CASE DEPT. TOO IS RECEIVING QUERIES FROM US PHILATELISTS), AIR FRANCE REP TOLD US THAT AIR FRANCE HAD DECIDED AGAINST CARRIAGE OF AIR MAIL ON CONCORDE WHEN COMMERCIAL SERVICE IS OPERATED TO WASHINGTON (EXPECT FOR ONE-TIME CARRIAGE OF FIRST DAY COVERS ON MAY 24 INAUGURAL FLIGHT.) RUSH

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Message Attributes

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